



BOSTON RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1972

1972
BOSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council :

F. COLLINGWOOD

Clerk of the Council :

D. E. SMITH, LL.B.

Staff of the Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health :

G. HIRD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

P. McPHUN, M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector :

C. E. THOMSETT, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors :

R. LYALL, M.A.P.H.I.

B. K. OVERTON, M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Administrative Assistant : C. H. CUTHBERT

Shorthand Typist/Clerk : Miss P. SHARPE

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BOSTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,
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To the Chairman and Members of the Boston Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

"It may perhaps be in the recollection of some of the Members of this Council that at a meeting held on January 23rd ult, the Chairman asked me for my monthly report. I replied I had not one to make, whereupon he said that that was the "best report" I had ever made to the Council.

I have now the pleasure of presenting to you the Annual Report for 1908 and I hope when you have perused it you will be able to re-echo the words of your Chairman that it is "the best", so far as regards the health of the District, the increase in the number of Births, and the decrease in the number of Deaths.

It will be the wiser course first to analyse the vital statistics as a whole."

These were the words of Dr. Arthur Tuxford in the introduction of his report in 1908 and he then went on to give the following statistics :-

Births	556	Birth Rate	27.58
Deaths	249	Death Rate	12.35
Infant Deaths	52	Infantile Death Rate	93.52

Causes of Death

Cancer	21
Bronchitis	18
Tuberculosis	16
Pneumonia	13
Diarrhoea	6
Alcoholism	3

Infectious Diseases

Diphtheria	3
Erysipelas	15
Scarlet Fever	70
Typhoid Fever	6
Puerperal Fever	1

Perhaps when you peruse this report for 1972 you will also be able to say that this too is "the best" so far as the health of the District is concerned. I cannot recall any year in which all the statistics have been lower than the figures for England & Wales.

During 1972 there were 299 births of which 20 were illegitimate. The Crude Birth Rate was 13.1 whilst the Corrected Birth Rate using the Comparability Factor calculated by the Registrar General was 13.9. The illegitimate Birth Rate as a percentage of the Live Births was 7%. The National figure was 9. The Live Birth Rate for England & Wales was 14.8.

There was 1 Still Birth during the year, which gave a Still Birth Rate of 3. The Still Birth Rate for England & Wales was 12.

During 1972 there were 5 deaths of Infants under 1 year of age, 3 of which occurred under the age of 4 weeks. This gave an Infant Mortality Rate of 17 which was identical to the National figure. The Perinatal Mortality Rate was 7, compared with 22 for England & Wales.

There were 259 deaths in 1972, 149 male and 110 female. The Crude and Adjusted Death Rates were 11.4. The figure for England & Wales was 12.1. There were 148 deaths from Heart & Circulatory disease, approximately 57% of the total. There were 53 deaths from Malignant disease in all its forms which was 20% of all deaths.

Measles with 119 reported cases was the most prevalent of the Infectious Diseases. There were 4 cases of Scarlet Fever, 3 of Infective Jaundice and 1 case each of Meningitis, Food Poisoning and Whooping Cough. There were no deaths from Infectious Diseases.

With regard to Tuberculosis, the number of cases still on the Register at the end of 1972 was 82, compared with 109 ten years ago. The notifications continued to fall there being 1 last year compared with 11 in 1963. There were no deaths from Tuberculosis in 1972.

A comprehensive report on all the activities of the Health Department are set out in detail and are worthy of study. Unfit properties are being steadily dealt with, either by being closed or demolished or brought up to modern standards with the help of grants. Further progress has been made in sewerage the remaining parts of the Rural District together with extensions to the Fishtoft works and also at Frampton. Comprehensive information and various tables regarding housing, sewerage, food hygiene are set out in the body of the Report.

The assistance given to the Health Department at all times by other Chief Officers and their Staffs is gratefully acknowledged.

To Councillor Bannister and the Members of the Health Committee I offer my thanks for their continued interest and concern for all aspects of the work of the Department, for without their support and approval little would have been accomplished.

To Mr. McPhun and the Public Health Inspectors much praise is due for their continued support and help and also to the administrative staff who organise most of the day to day problems that arise in the Department.

This Report will almost certainly be the last of its kind in its present form. A new Council will emerge in April 1974 and I trust that the same happy co-operation will result and that the new Department and the Members of the Council will successfully overcome the many difficulties which are bound to arise and continue to flourish as the previous Rural District Council undoubtedly did.

G. HIRD,
Medical Officer of Health.

November, 1973.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	84,398
Home Population (Registrar - General's Mid - Year estimate for 1972)	..	..	..	..	..	22,770
Number of dwellings on rate book	..	..	..	..	..	8,148
Average number of persons per square mile	..	..	..	..	..	175
Estimated product of a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	£5,691
Rateable value as at 1st April, 1972	..	..	..	..	..	£577,595

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The social conditions of the district have remained unchanged during the year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	142	137	279
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	13	7	20
Total Live Births	..	..	..	..	155	144	299
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (crude)					..	..	13.1
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population (adjusted)					..	..	13.9

Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births .. 7

Still Births					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total Still Births	—	1	1
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births					3

					Male	Female	Total
Total Live and Still Births					155	145	300

Infant Deaths

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	4	—	4
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
Total	..	..	..	..	4	1	5

Infant Mortality Rates :-

(a) All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
(b) Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
(c) Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	50

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	2	—	2
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	1	1
Total	..	..	..	..	2	1	3

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births .. 10

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
Total	..	..	..	..	1	—	1

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births 3

Perinatal Mortality					Male	Female	Total
Still Births and Deaths under 1 week					1	1	2
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and still births					..	..	7

Maternal Mortality

Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

Deaths					Male	Female	Total
All causes	..	..	..	..	149	110	259
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (crude)	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.4
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (adjusted)	..	..	..	..	..	..	11.4

COMPARISONS WITH ENGLAND AND WALES :-

The figures for the Live Birth Rates and Death Rates given below have been corrected using the comparability factors supplied by the Registrar-General. These factors allow for the differing age and sex composition of the various populations, and enable valid comparisons to be made.

It is also emphasised that undue significance should not be attached to rates which are based on very small numbers (e.g. infant mortality) and that a comparison of such rates with those in other areas, or with earlier years may have little statistical significance.

	Boston R.D.					England & Wales
Live Birth Rate	13.9	14.8
Death Rate	11.4	12.1
Still Birth Rate	3	12
Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 year)					17	17
Neonatal Mortality (Deaths under 4 weeks)					10	12
Early Neonatal Mortality (Deaths under 1 week)	3	10
Perinatal Mortality Rate	7	22

Birth Rates, Death Rates and Infant Mortality Rates in Boston Rural District, 1958-1972.

Year	No. of Births	Crude Birth Rates	No. of Deaths	Crude Death Rates	Infant Mortality Rates	Average 5 Years		
						Birth Rates	Death Rates	Infant Mortality Rates
1958	372	16.8	186	8.4	13.4	15.0	9.1	19.9
1959	297	13.3	206	9.2	30.3			
1960	362	16.1	208	9.3	22.1			
1961	327	14.6	195	8.7	12.2			
1962	326	14.4	227	10.0	21.5			
1963	366	16.1	239	10.5	13.7	15.1	9.9	15.8
1964	351	15.4	220	9.7	11.4			
1965	348	15.3	237	10.4	14.4			
1966	330	14.5	227	10.0	18.2			
1967	326	14.2	204	8.9	21.5			
1968	300	13.1	225	9.8	13.3	13.2	10.2	14.1
1969	314	13.7	229	10.0	3.0			
1970	303	13.2	230	10.0	20.0			
1971	294	12.9	222	9.7	17.0			
1972	299	13.1	259	11.4	17.0			

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DISTRICT IN 1972.

Cause of Death	Males	Females
Other Tuberculosis	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc. ..	2	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	4	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	7	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ..	8	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	3	—
Leukaemia	—	3
Other Malignant Neoplasms	7	5
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	—	1
Diabetes Mellitus	1	1
Anaemias	—	1
Other Diseases of Blood, etc	1	—
Mental Disorders	—	2
Other Diseases of Nervous System	—	2
Hypertensive Disease	—	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	50	20
Other Forms of Heart Disease	7	13
Cerebrovascular Disease	20	23
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	9
Pneumonia	10	4
Bronchitis and Emphysema	6	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	—	1
Peptic Ulcer	2	1
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—
Congenital Anomalies	2	—
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	—	1
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions ..	1	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1
All Other Accidents	2	—
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	2	—
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	149	110

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES :

Facilities are available at the Public Health Laboratory, Lincoln for the bacteriological examination of samples of water and ice cream.

The laboratories of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, London, continue to carry out chemical examinations of water samples on behalf of the Department.

AMBULANCE SERVICE:

This service is provided and maintained by the Holland County Council through the Ambulance and Transport Department.

SCHOOL MEDICAL AND MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES :

These services are administered by the Holland County Council.

TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS :

The provision and administration of Treatment Centres and Clinics is delegated to the Regional Hospital Board and the County Council.

The treatment of Scabies and similar complaints is carried out at Ferry House Clinic, London Road, Boston, which is under the control of the County Council.

NURSING IN THE HOME :

The home nursing service is under the control of the Local Health Authority.

HOSPITALS :

All Hospitals in the area are administered by the Boston Group Hospital Management Committee for the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board.

Details of the facilities available in Boston and District are as follows :-

Pilgrim Hospital – Obstetrics, Special Care Baby, Traumatic and Orthopaedic Surgery, Paediatric, Gynaecology

Boston General Hospital – Acute-General and Dental Surgery, E.N.T. and Ophthalmology.

Wyberton West Hospital – Geriatric.

Woodlands Court Hospital – Geriatric.

White House Hospital – Infectious and Chest Diseases.

London Road Hospital – Geriatric Assessment. General Medicine.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948-SECTION 47-REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION :

No action was taken by the Council under this Section.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the total number of infectious diseases notified and confirmed during the year and the numbers admitted to hospital.

Notifiable Diseases during the year, 1972.

Disease.	Cases Notified	Confirmed Cases	Cases admitted to Hospital
Acute Meningitis	1	1	1
Food Poisoning	1	1	1
Infective Jaundice	3	3	Nil
Measles	119	119	Nil
Scarlet Fever	4	4	Nil
Whooping Cough	1	1	Nil

Infectious Diseases Notified 1963-1972.

Disease	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963
Acute Encephalitis: (Post Infectious) ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Meningitis ..	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	—	5	—	3	3	63	30	—	4	243
Food Poisoning ..	1	4	19	—	1	2	1	1	—	5
Infective Jaundice ..	3	1	4	28	2	1	3	—	—	—
Measles ..	119	14	134	19	37	409	52	641	108	347
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	4	5	—	13	10	2	19	18	12	1
Whooping Cough ..	1	11	1	4	15	19	12	29	85	7

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER.

Table I.

	Males		Females		Total
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	
(a) Number of cases on Register at beginning of year	38	6	39	6	89
(b) Number of cases notified for first time in year	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Number of cases restored to Register	—	—	—	—	—
(d) Number of cases added to Register other than by formal notification	—	—	1	—	1
(e) Number of cases removed from Register during the year	—	3	1	4	8
(f) Number of cases remaining on Register on 31st December, 1972 ...	38	3	39	2	82

SUMMARY OF CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER 1963-1972.

Table II.

Year	Cases on Register			Notifications each year			Deaths		
	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Total
1963	93	16	109	9	2	11	—	1	1
1964	89	16	105	2	1	3	2	—	2
1965	91	15	106	5	1	6	1	1	2
1966	92	15	107	6	1	7	4	—	4
1967	85	16	101	3	1	4	6	—	6
1968	84	16	100	2	—	2	1	—	1
1969	81	15	96	—	—	—	2	—	2
1970	83	15	98	4	—	4	1	—	1
1971	77	12	89	1	—	1	2	—	2
1972	77	5	82	1	—	1	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS :

Cases notified within the Rural District come under the control of Dr. A. M. Forrest, Chest Physician, South Lincolnshire Area.

The following table gives details of new cases notified and deaths occurring during the year.

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION :

All immunisation and vaccination work within the District is under the jurisdiction of the Holland County Council.

The following information has kindly been supplied by the County Health Department.

IMMUNISATION :

Diphtheria :

Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	107	
1 and under 5 years	..	..	..	..	..	186	
5-14 years	..	..	..	..	..	3	
							296

Number of Booster Injections 541

Combined Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus :

Under 5 years 293

The percentage of children immunised against Diphtheria in relation to the child population is as follows :—

Under 1 year 40.5%

VACCINATION AGAINST MEASLES :

Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
1 and under 5 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	228
5-15 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
							<hr/> 248 <hr/>

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX :

Primary Vaccinations :

Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
2-4 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
5-14 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
15 years and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
							<hr/> 24 <hr/>

Re-vaccinations :

1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	—
2-4 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
5-14 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
15 years and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	78
							<hr/> 90 <hr/>

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS :

The position of Poliomyelitis Vaccination at 31st December, 1972 was as follows :-

Of the babies born in 1972 37.1% had been vaccinated at 31st December, 1972 and by 31st March 1973, this figure had risen to 58.7%.

Comparable figures for 31st December, 1971, and 31st March, 1972, were 37.1% and 58.4%.

Other Pre-School Age Groups

Percentage Vaccinated.

Born in	1972	1971
1971	96.3	37.1
1970	102.1	96.7
1969	90.5	89.8
1968	107.5	106.5

The above figures and the first few years of the following school age group show a steady increase, the pre-school age group being slightly higher than the school age group.

School Age Groups.					Percentage Vaccinated.	
Born in					1972	1971
1967	..	..	..	..	100.6	100.0
1966	..	..	..	..	101.9	101.2
1965	..	..	..	..	99.7	99.7
1964	..	..	..	..	96.0	95.7
1963	..	..	..	..	107.0	107.0
1962	..	..	..	..	103.3	103.3
1961	..	..	..	..	97.5	97.5
1960	..	..	..	..	94.4	94.4
1959	..	..	..	..	97.6	97.6
1958	..	..	..	..	91.9	91.9
1957	..	..	..	..	93.7	93.7
1956	..	..	..	..	98.4	98.4

In the above two groups of figures there are six age groups that have exceeded 100% of children vaccinated. This is due to the fact that some children were born in other areas and have moved to this area prior to being vaccinated. It is an impossible task to deduct the numbers of these children as figures are unknown to us.

Re-inforcing Dose 15-18 years inclusive.

Children of this age group are contacted through the help of head teachers of Senior Schools each year.

As the bulk of older children who have now left school were contacted in the earlier part of this campaign only school children now need to be contacted.

The number of children of this age group who have received this dose during 1972 was 68. The response to this dose is poor compared with the first years of this campaign.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

I am indebted to Mr. N. A. Eagles, Engineer and Manager of the South Lincolnshire Water Board, for the following report of the Rural Water Supply.

The total quantity of water supplied from Sutterton Pumping Station during the year was 701,187,000 gallons which was an increase of 87,095,000 gallons (14.2%) over the previous year. This total quantity was distributed to the Rural District and supplied in bulk to the East Lincolnshire Water Board as follows :-

	Boston R.D.C.	East Lincs. Water Board
1972	395,547,000 gallons	305,640,000 gallons
*1971	307,492,000 gallons	306,600,000 gallons

*These were figures given for 1971 and included in your report for that year. However, early in 1972 it was discovered that a meter fault had

occured which resulted in a much greater quantity being charged to E.L.W.B. than had actually been supplied. This consequently increased the quantity which had been indicated as being consumed in Boston R.D.C. The adjusted figures for 1971 are as follows :-

	Boston R.D.C.	East Lincs. Water Board
1971	370,323,000 gallons	243,769,000 gallons

The consumption in the Rural District therefore increased by 25,224,000 gallons over the adjusted 1971 figure, an increase of (7%). The average daily quantity supplied to the Rural District during 1972 was 1,081,000 gallons which represents a consumption of 47.4 gallons per head per day.

Supplies to the whole of the Rural District area were satisfactorily maintained both in quality and quantity throughout the year. The new source at Rippingale was brought into operation on a temporary basis in April 1972, to augment supplies from Bourne and Jockey.

Samples of water from the sources, pumping stations and various points within the distribution system were taken each week and submitted for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratories, Peterborough. In all cases the results of these examinations were satisfactory.

Chemical analyses were made of the raw water from the sources at Bourne, West Pinchbeck and Rippingale and the results indicated that the samples conform with the Standards approved by the W.H.O. 1971 International and 1970 European recommendations for Drinking Water with regard to chemical content.

The following table shows the new mains laid in the Rural District area during the year :-

Location	Length Laid (metres)			
	50mm (2")	76mm (3")	102mm (4")	Total
Kirton End, Donington Road ...		137		137
Wigtoft, Church Estate		129		129
Butterwick, Broughton Lane ...		91		91
Fishtoft, Bladon Estate		739	9	748
Swineshead, Drayton Road ...	41		867	908
TOTALS	41	1,096	876	2,013

Water Analysis.

30 Samples of water drawn from the mains at various points in the District were submitted by the Public Health Department for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Lincoln. The results showed the water to be satisfactory.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR ON THE SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

HOUSING

Slum Clearance.

Action continued during the year in dealing with unfit houses under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957. No clearance areas were represented during the year.

The following table shows the current position relative to action taken :-

Unfit dwellings demolished since 1st January, 1956	415
Dwellings subject to Demolition Orders but not yet demolished	14
Dwellings subject to Closing Orders	30
Dwellings subject to Undertakings not to re-let for human habitation	44

30 unfit properties were demolished during 1972. These were either properties with Orders on, or as a result of voluntary demolition. The table as a whole shows steady progress, which continues each year, to either clear or rehabilitate unfit houses. It is considered far better that this progress should be a steady continuing one which keeps pace with new building (either private or Council) than a major assault on the problem of unfit housing. This achieves nothing but a lot of condemned property, still occupied, and from which the occupiers may have to wait a year or more to move out. In any case, major survey work and the resulting administrative load stemming from it would be impracticable with the present numbers of staff available.

It is essential to keep the use of undertakings on unfit properties in perspective. Where, because the property cannot be made fit at reasonable expense, and the present owner cannot afford or does not wish to put further large capital investment into it there is still a strong case for accepting an Undertaking if the property is structurally sound and not in a complete state of dereliction. In many instances the owner or a future owner may later be prepared to do major works (often with grant aid) to save the property from demolition. In this way the existing housing stock, and the character of the villages and countryside can be preserved. On the other hand, it is essential to differentiate between those properties

which lend themselves to rehabilitation, and those that are structurally unsound and otherwise substandard to a point where there is no merit, economic or otherwise, in preserving them. It is this type where demolition should be enforced rigidly, and Undertakings not contemplated. Old houses, like old suits, do wear out, and there is a point where it is uneconomic to patch them up and “send them to the cleaners”.

These principles are kept in mind when making recommendations to the Council, who, of course, must be the final arbiters.

Overcrowding.

No cases of overcrowding were reported during 1972.

Improvement Grants.

No. of applications approved by Council during 1972 for full Improvement Grants	35
Total amount of grant approved	£23,162.22
Average per house improved	£661.78
No. of Standard Grants Approved	28
Total amount approved for Standard Grants	£5,860.00
Average grant per house	£209.29
No. of Council houses improved with grant aid	34

Once again the Council has made full use of improvement grants in its drive to save unfit houses and houses lacking basic amenities from becoming slums and being demolished. 83 properties were improved with the aid of grants, and this is a record of which the Council can be proud. This is 33 more than in 1971, and interest in the grant schemes is not diminishing.

I have said in previous reports that the improvement grant schemes are complementary to the authority's normal slum clearance programme, and have already commented on this under “Slum Clearance” in this report. Every house saved and improved relieves the need for new building in a time of inflation and shortage. The important thing is to ensure that all schemes approved end with a structurally sound property in first class repair, provided with modern amenities, and with a good potential life ahead of it. If these yardsticks are carefully applied then any taxpayers' money expended is worthwhile.

The total amount of money given on grants rose sharply during 1972. The average amount paid out on each grant has also risen. This increase is, of course, reflected in the increased number of grants given, but is also because of higher building and other costs. There is no doubt that as costs increase the ceiling level for grants will need review once more to keep pace.

Grants under Public Health Act 1936 - Section 47(4)

Small grants of up to £75 (or half actual cost) have continued to be given during the year for pail conversions where other grants could not be used. The number of such grants given was 12.

The effect of work in this direction is commented on more fully in the section of this report dealing with the Pail Emptying Service.

Summary of new dwellings completed during 1972.

Council Houses	Old Leake	31
	Wigtoft	8
	Fosdyke	2
	Kirton	25
	Swineshead	6
		<hr/> 72
Private enterprise dwellings		77
		<hr/> 149

Remedy of Housing Defects.

Informal Notices	10
Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act 1936 ..	Nil
Statutory Notices under the Housing Act, 1957, Section 9	Nil

Action under Sections 16 and 17, Housing Act, 1957.

Demolition Orders made	3
Closing Orders made	2
Undertakings not to re-let accepted	3
Dwellings demolished	30
Undertakings cancelled following repairs	1

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Caravan sites continue to serve a useful purpose in the district, especially the residential sites. The growth of the caravan industry over the years has resulted in the development of very large caravans which include bathrooms, water closets and other amenities. They are often like small bungalows and provided they are not overcrowded provide excellent homes. Such caravans provide good accommodation for young couples using them as intermediate housing before they get more permanent homes. They also provide very acceptable and comfortable housing for more elderly couples seeking to cut their costs, and the work

of larger houses they no longer need. Both usages assist in the relief of the present housing shortage, and provided sites are carefully chosen and well run their use should be encouraged.

The majority of sites licensed in the Rural District Council are for single or two caravans only. There are 47 licensed sites in all. Among the residential sites is one for 40 caravans at Hall Hills, Fishtoft. Development on this was started in 1971 and it came into use during 1972. It is still far from being fully occupied and will be confined mainly to large caravans having their own bathrooms and water closets. The owner of the site has more than ample land available, and will almost certainly seek further extension of the site in the future. This will present no great problem on public health grounds except so far as drainage is concerned. In this field, and since a large residential site of this nature uses and needs to dispose of large quantities of water, and is akin to housing estate development, the drainage will need to be looked at carefully. It is my view that nothing but a self contained sewage disposal plant with a proper outfall could be acceptable unless, of course, it proved possible to pump the effluent to an existing public sewer. Since this (and other similar sites) provides what is now accepted as a nearly permanent form of housing it is essential that the comfort and well-being of its residents should not be sacrificed to the costs involved.

The large holiday caravan site at Hubbert's Bridge continues to be well run and well used. It serves a public demand and need, and gives little trouble.

All is, unfortunately, not rosy in the lower scale of caravan homes, and the use of temporary accommodation such as sheds and tents. During the year the Council needed to deal with a middle aged couple living rough on the roadside, first in a tent, and then in a shack which Robinson Crusoe would have been ashamed to inhabit. Sanitary facilities were completely lacking, and the potential health risks to the couple and those members of the public they came into contact with were very real. It is to the Council's credit that they could recognise these factors as the important issues which overrode this couples' own lack of responsibility and initiative, and provision was made for rehousing them. This incident underlines the continued need for licensing and control of standards of any land or premises used for human habitation if the health of individuals and the public is to be preserved.

During the year a survey was carried out by the County Council into the need for a gypsy caravan site to serve this and adjoining districts. Though the Rural District Council has no problem in this respect, there is certainly a need for a transit site for certain types of caravan dwellers passing through or staying in the district for short periods. Failing this, the current law is inevitably broken and, more importantly, the standard of hygiene at roadside or other illegal sites is very low or is non-existent, and gives rise to public health hazards.

DRAINAGE

The table below shows the built-up and village areas within the Council's district which are sewered, and the number of properties which are connected into the various sewers.

Parish	Number Connected	Number not Connected
Kirton and Frampton	945	21
Wyberton	1039	18
Fishtoft	1133	24
Leverton	100	2
Freiston	173	7
Old Leake	145	7
Butterwick	219	18
Swineshead	367	43

The percentage of properties not yet connected is very low, and since in most cases the cost of connection represents fairly substantial capital outlay on the part of owners it clearly illustrates how important and essential this form of drainage is to low lying fenland districts such as ours, where high water tables make septic tank and soakaway systems a source of nuisance and spoil the enjoyment and proper usage of modern sanitary facilities.

Connections to the older schemes are still continuing, and the few remaining properties not connected are usually because freak ground conditions and ground space allow reliance on tanks to continue for a further number of years. The figures for properties not connected also include some for which laterals were provided, but the properties have become disused or demolished.

During the year further progress was made on sewerage the district. The Sutterton and Wigtoft scheme suffered some delay. It was anticipated that it would be ready for connecting to by November 1972, but it will not now be ready until January 1973.

Work was commenced on the sewerage of the Fishtoft village area and on extensions of the Fishtoft works to receive the full flow from the Pilgrim Hospital and other development.

At Frampton, work on the regional sludge disposal plant got under way. On completion in 1973 this plant will solve serious problems for the Council in sludge drying, and disposing of sludge output from the main disposal works. It will also provide a more satisfactory outlet for cesspool tanker effluent, and should ensure that the effluent standards at the works always satisfy River Authority standards. It must also be

mentioned that the dried cake may provide a source of income from local farmers, and will certainly enable sludge to be handled and disposed of more hygienically and without nuisance.

Another major scheme came to fruition in 1972 when the Department of the Environment approved the sewerage of Old Leake Common-side. The scheme has suffered unavoidable delays but is scheduled to proceed in 1973.

Besides these major schemes the policy of improvement of drainage at small groups of Council houses was continued. In this respect schemes at Bell Lane, Fosdyke; Benington village; Skeldyke Road, Kirton; Eleys Lane, Algarkirk and Grovefield Lane, Freiston, are either completed or well advanced, and further residents will enjoy the hygienic and social benefits which main drainage brings.

I said in my previous report that, despite a very good record of progress in this essential field of public health, much still remained to be done as economics allowed. I had little doubt that upon re-organisation of Local Government in April 1974 the good work would have been carried on by the new Council. The issue is, however, somewhat clouded now with the proposed formation of Regional Water Authorities in 1974. It would seem that these authorities may take over responsibility for initiating new sewerage schemes and disposal works. Whilst this may spread costs more evenly, it may also slow up local progress and stultify local initiative and control. If this occurs then it will be a matter for regret. In the present climate of change in all directions one can only take note, and hope that the benefits to the environment which such changes are forecast to bring will in fact come about, and that local opinion and views can make an active contribution to local needs.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

No major change in the refuse collection rounds occurred in 1972, and the five regular refuse rounds continued. Weekly collections are given to all dwellings in the district.

During the year the Council authorised a full work study to be commenced on the service following the feasibility study carried out in 1971. This study was well advanced by the end of the year, but documentation and final preparation of a scheme was not completed because of staff shortages and other calls on the time of the work study staff of the Holland County Council. This slow progress came under some criticism from some sections of the employees, but talks and explanations given to them enabled their patience and confidence to be restored. When the national pay freeze came on late in the year, this in any case stopped implementation of new productivity schemes for several months. It is now antici-

pated that all documentation, approvals and consultations with unions will be completed to enable a bonus scheme to start immediately the freeze ends.

As always, I wish to record my appreciation of the efforts of the men performing refuse collection duties, and of the efforts of the foreman and administrative staff connected with the day to day running of the service. Without the co-operation and understanding of all members of this team the service would not have run smoothly throughout the year with a very minimal number of complaints from the public.

Delivery was taken of a new 35 cu. yd. Shelvoke & Drewry Pakamatic vehicle in mid year. This completed the Council's accelerated vehicle replacement programme which was commenced in the light of The Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1969. The fleet of refuse vehicles is now modernised, and better able to cope with larger rounds and future increases in payloads without excessive journeys to the tip. Further vehicle replacements can now proceed more gradually as age and the mechanical condition of the vehicles so dictates.

In September 1973 refuse vehicles will no longer be exempt from plating and testing annually, and during this year a start has been made on applying for plating and test certificates in a spread over programme that will see all vehicles safely through the test well before the deadline. This has inevitably lead to more work for the garage staff, who are to be congratulated on the way they have coped so far. It has also lead to more administrative work and headaches of one sort or another, plus additional repair and maintenance bills. There is, however, no doubt that the Council's progressive policy in vehicle replacement has paid dividends in getting vehicles through the test with the minimum fuss and expense and enabled the service to run safely and smoothly.

Controlled tipping of refuse continued at Slippery Gowt Farm, Wyberton. A further area of land had top soil removed and stockpiled for future use and tipping was carried out without nuisance. During 1972 agreement was reached with this Council and the Borough Council for the joint use of Slippery Gowt Farm tip from April 1973, when it is anticipated the present Borough tip will be full. The two authorities are to be congratulated on this exercise in co-operation which can only be to the ultimate benefit of all ratepayers in the Boston area regardless of present boundaries.

The special collection of bulky household items has again shown dividends, and indiscriminate dumping of old mattresses, ovens, etc., in the countryside has reduced. Some dumping still occurs, however, causing additional work and expense to the department. This is a "hardy annual" of a problem which short of catching and prosecuting the culprits is always likely to be with us to some degree. Further consideration may also have to be given to providing additional places in the district where ratepayers may legally deposit their garden and other refuse to await collection. This could help prevent indiscriminate dumping and give better facilities to those people living a long distance from the tip.

The following table gives detailed information in respect of the numbers and types of vehicles used and work done, the second table shows costs of the service :-

REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICE STATISTICS.

Round No.	One	Two	Three	Four	Five
Vehicle No.	VDO 307L	LDO 231G	LDO 229G	LJL 634G	YJL 771
Purchased	1972	1968	1968	1969	1964
Capacity—cu. yds.	35	50	50	35	25
Engine Type	Diesel	Diesel	Diesel	Diesel	Diesel
Average miles per gall.	8	6	5	7	9
Average miles per week	231	125	125	185	180
No. of men in team	2	4	5	3	2
Refuse bins on round	1372	2508	3039	1465	1040
Average bins per man per day	137	125	122	98	104

	1972	1971	1970	1969
Estimated cost of Refuse Collection Service	£41,207	£35,477	£32,965	£31,294
Cost of emptying per bin	£4.37	£3.92	£3.72	£3.55
Cost per bin per collection	8.6p	7.7p	7.3p	7p

Cesspool Emptying.

The demands on this service have again increased over those of previous years as is shown in the attached table. This is largely due to the shorter free emptying period, lower charges to householders for chargeable emptyings, and the modernisation of properties outside sewered areas.

Despite this increasing demand it should be noted that the nett cost of the service is only marginally higher than in 1971 in spite of increased costs in wages, vehicle spares etc. This is partly due to the introduction of work study in November 1972 which enabled economies

to be made, and for more emptyings to be achieved in a shorter working day. In the main the service is now carried out by two vehicles working on emptyings for a total of 8 working days per week. The other 2 days are spent on pail emptying by one vehicle. It is still essential, however, to man a third spare vehicle in periods of very heavy demand to maintain a good service with the shortest possible waiting time.

The continued sewerage of the Council's district has resulted in a more frequent and more economic cesspool emptying service despite the comments made in the opening paragraph. It has also enabled the Council to pursue its policy of giving the best possible service to those ratepayers who must always remain outside sewered areas, and enabled the department to give relatively speedy relief to nuisances and inconvenience caused by full tanks and drainage systems.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE STATISTICS.

Vehicle No.	TDO 110K	BJL 573C
Purchased	1971	1965
Capacity	1100 galls.	1100 galls.
Engine Type	Diesel	Diesel
Average miles per gallon	12	11
Number of men in team	2	2

	1972	1971	1970	1969
Premises given free service	1864	1934	1834	1815
Chargeable emptyings	765	609	484	498
Vaults emptied—chargeable	16	13	16	9
1000 gallon loads removed from cesspools, vaults, etc. ...	2237	2146	1951	1975
Vehicle loads removed from Housing Estate Sewage Plants ...	650	437	404	339

Estimated total expenditure of the Cesspool Emptying Service in 1972: £9,900

Estimated income from chargeable work : £1,622

Estimated net cost of the Service : £8,278

Pail Emptying Service.

In 1972 the number of pail closets requiring emptying fell once again, from 264 to 233. This shows a reduction of 31 during the year. Of the 233 properties on pails 199 are private properties and 34 are Council houses. With known conversions in progress or contemplated (both Council and private) it is anticipated that a further 32 premises will be converted by mid 1973.

The Council has continued its policy of getting rid of pail closets by offering improvement grants where appropriate and grants under Section 47(4) of the Public Health Act 1936 in other cases. Apart from normal grants, 12 grants under the Public Health Act were given during the year.

During 1972 savings were made on the service by reducing the time spent on it from 2½ days to 2 days. Further known savings will be made by 31/3/74 when, apart from other factors, a loss of 49 pails will take full effect because of the cessation of emptying in the sewered parts of Sutterton and Wigtoft. I mentioned in my last annual report, however, that in the private sector conversions are slowing down and there is likely to be a small number of properties needing the service for a number of years to come. These will be mainly very old houses not worth improving or where elderly owner/occupiers cannot afford to do the work.

If one looks at pail emptying in the cold light of economics it will be seen that the cost per pail emptied increases annually as they reduce in number and are left in the more isolated parts of the district. Although this appears to be a disproportionate burden on rated services it must be remembered that because of the mainly isolated positions of such properties they do not receive the full benefit of other rated services. Again, if one looks at pail emptying and the continued existence of even small numbers of such primitive forms of toilet, from the standpoint of hygiene, then the short answer is to stop collections and thus force owners and owner/occupiers to convert or deal with emptying themselves. The effect of this would be disastrous in economic and other ways for the elderly, and I believe the proper course is to continue collections and improve and convert whenever the opportunity occurs, even if the process will be slower than in previous years.

PAIL EMPTYING SERVICE STATISTICS.

	1972	1971	1970	1969
Estimated cost of Pail Emptying Service	£2,200	£2,010	£2,120	£2,920
Cost of emptying per pail	£9.43	£7.61	£6.18	£6.82
Cost per pail per collection	19p	15p	12p	13p

Vehicle No.	ODO 513H
Purchased	1970
Capacity	1100 galls.
Engine Type	Diesel
Average miles per gall.	12
Average miles per round	150
No. of men in team	2
No. of pails on round	233
Average pails per man per day	58

Salvage.

The amount of salvage sold in 1972 fell below that of 1971. This was largely due to the lack of demand from the paper mills, and the continued existence of a restrictive quota system commenced in 1971. Another factor is for the tonnage of mixed waste paper collected and baled to fall because of the continued and increasing use of plastics for packaging and wrapping.

Despite this slightly gloomy picture, conditions improved later in the year. Demand and prices increased and tonnages of newspaper and fibreboard (for which higher prices are received) began to increase to offset losses in mixed wastes. Collection of salvage is still worthwhile for the income it produces and benefits resulting at the tip, and the signs are that next year will be more normal in sales and income received.

Details of materials sold during 1972 are as follows :-

	Tonnes	£	p.
Fibreboard	37.75	461	37
Mixed Waste Paper ..	54.67	563	23
Newspaper	58.31	732	35
Textiles	3.80	67	28
Metals	4.57	35	23
	<hr/> 159.10	<hr/> 1,859	<hr/> 46

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food Premises.

Work in this important field continued satisfactorily through the year, and all the smaller shop and other premises received at least one visit. Larger establishments were visited more frequently. Spot checks were also made on mobile vans and shops operating in the district.

Generally, standards have been good, and contraventions found of a relatively minor nature which have been dealt with by informal action.

During the year a number of cases came to the department's attention of mould or foreign objects in food. One of these involved a small sprig or nail in a portion of frozen meat pie served at a local hotel. Apart from the hygiene implications this object could quite conceivably have caused serious injury if chewed or swallowed. Investigations eliminated the hotel from blame, and showed quite clearly the sprig must have got into the pie at the premises outside the district where it was manufactured, and before being frozen. A prosecution was taken by the Council and this firm was found guilty of an offence under Section 2 of the The Food & Drugs Act 1955. The fine imposed, however, was only £5, mainly because of mitigating circumstances pleaded by the firm concerned. Such a sum is a derisory figure, and at the time makes one wonder whether all the work and effort caused by such proceedings is really worthwhile, and if the public is really that much concerned when it has the chance through the proper machinery to express its displeasure forcibly. In retrospect, however, there is a credit side in that firms involved in major contraventions receive unwanted publicity which can be more damaging than any fine imposed.

Another interesting case was a piece of metal found in a can of asparagus canned in the U.S.A., and marketed through their London subsidiary. The need here was more to detect what had gone wrong during the original processing to allow this foreign body to get access to the can, and then to step up safeguards to prevent recurrence. Every effort and co-operation was given to this end by the parties concerned, and it is interesting to note that the department received a letter some months later from the United States Embassy in London assuring us the case had been followed up by their own authorities.

	No. of premises	No. fitted to comply with Regulation 18	No. to which Regulation 21 applies	No. Com- plying with Regulation 21
Bakehouses	6	6	6	6
Bakery Transfer Depots ...	3	3	3	3
Fish Shops	9	9	9	9
Grocers and General Stores	50	50	40	40
Premises selling wrapped sweets and ice cream only	8	8	4	4
Cafes	3	3	3	3
Factory Canteens	3	3	3	3
Butchers Shops	10	10	10	10
Butchery Factories	3	3	3	3
Licensed Clubs	10	10	10	10
Public Houses	35	35	35	35
Hotels	4	4	4	4
Slaughterhouses	5	5	5	5
Butter Factories	1	1	1	1
Ice Cream Depot	1	1	1	1
Game Stores	2	2	2	2
Dairy Depot	1	—	1	1
Vegetable Packing and Processing Plants	2	2	2	2

Slaughterhouses.

Five private slaughterhouses remain in the district. These are relatively small ones used for "family" butchering and not for large scale kills for export out of the district. A high standard of hygiene has been maintained in these premises both to the satisfaction of your own inspectors and also of the veterinary officer of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, who also inspects such premises once or twice each year.

An application for a new slaughterhouse licence was received in the closing months of the year. This was in connection with the existing but unlicensed premises at Frampton and for the slaughter of rabbits only, which were to be bred in cages on farms. The plans were approved by the Council and forwarded to the Ministry, and it is anticipated that the project will receive their approval early in 1973. It is intended that much of the output of the processed rabbits will be exported frozen to Common Market Countries together with game and perhaps poultry.

Meat Inspection.

One hundred per cent meat inspection was again achieved during the year. Any difficulty arising in this respect is not caused by the number of animals slaughtered but only because of the scattered nature of and distances between the slaughterhouses. Excellent co-operation between the butchers and inspectors concerned enabled this result to be achieved.

The Council continued its policy of making no charges for meat inspection.

The total number of animals slaughtered in the district again showed an appreciable drop over the figures for previous years. This is apparent for all classes of animals slaughtered. Since the same population is being fed this can only mean that butchers are buying more meat in from wholesale slaughterhouses, or that people are eating less meat and turning more and more to substitutes such as poultry. Shopping habits are also changing and it is certainly true that an increasing amount of meat is being bought from supermarkets in pre-pack wraps. All these factors could add up to the decline of the smaller family butcher, and the operation of the smaller slaughterhouse. Another factor accelerating this decline is the shortage of trained slaughtermen, and the lack of new entrants to the trade. Centralised slaughtering has been the aim of the Government for many years, and has many obvious advantages. None the less, it will be a matter for regret if the choice of quality meat and service offered by the better class family butcher is lost.

The amount of meat needing to be condemned during the year remained low and the quality of animals slaughtered high.

Meat inspection figures for 1972 are as follows :-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (as notified)	544	—	1	1551	1811
Number inspected	544	—	1	1551	1811
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	1	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	46	—	—	17	265
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.	8.45%	—	—	1.16%	14.91%
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	8
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0.44%
Cysticercosis :					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

Total weight of meat and offal condemned—1 ton 7 cwts. 17 lbs.

Inspection of Other Foods.

The undermentioned foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption were suitably disposed of :-

520 lbs.	Venison
650 lbs.	Hare portions
126 kilos	Tomatoes
18 Kilos	Aubergines
6 lbs.	Margarine
156 lbs.	Cherries
292 lbs.	Grapes
350 lbs.	Pears
5 cwts.	Pickled Cauliflowers

Ice-Cream

49 samples of ice-cream were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Lincoln for examination. They were placed in the provisional grades as shown below :-

Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
41	8	—	—

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT.

Re-inspections in respect of premises registered earlier and registrations received during 1972 were carried out, details are as follows :-

Registrations and General Inspections.

Class of premises	No. of premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	7	40	30
Retail Shops	4	40	40
Wholesale shops, warehouses	—	1	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	4	5
Fuel storage depots ...	—	—	—

Analysis of persons employed in Registered Premises by Workplace.

Class of Workplace	No. of persons employed
Offices	139
Retail Shops	135
Wholesale departments, warehouses ...	9
Catering establishments open to the public	13
Canteens	15
Fuel Storage depots	—
TOTAL ...	311
Total Males	172
Total Females	139

Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises—93.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM.

The number of premises licensed to store petroleum has remained static. Many of these licensed premises are small installations for perhaps 500 or 1000 gallons storage, but still require the same attention as larger premises. The potential fire and explosion risk is the same no matter what quantity is stored. Once again, however, inspections have had to be limited to new work and alterations, and little time has been available for routine checks on observance of licensing conditions. Undoubtedly an increase in staff to do this work properly is needed, but since on re-organisation of Local Government the licensing and enforcement will pass to another authority this is obviously an inappropriate time to consider extra staff. I also feel that the work is more appropriate to fire officers supplemented by inspectors recruited and trained from the petroleum industry.

Number of licensed premises for storage:

Petroleum Spirit	..	..	204
Petroleum Mixtures	..	..	8
Carbide of Calcium	..	..	2

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is within the district an animal by-products plant, and a factory processing chicken feathers into a meal. Both of these premises have been a source of nuisance from time to time over many years, and have been referred to regularly in previous annual reports. They cause the department a great deal of work in checking and investigating conditions and in ensuring that processing is carried out with the best possible safeguards and care.

During 1972 the animal by-products plant again gave rise to considerable nuisance in the warm summer months, especially when conditions were humid and the winds easterly. In these conditions houses sited close to the west and south west of the factory are liable to be subjected to nuisance despite all the precautions taken. Following such a period the Council served a prohibition notice under the Public Health (Recurring Nuisances) Act 1968. This notice required certain works promised by the firm to be completed immediately, together with the taking of any other appropriate measures to prevent nuisance. This work was carried out and the nuisance abated. Changed wind and weather conditions also contributed, and the full effect of the modifications to the plant will, as always, not be tested until the really hot and adverse conditions of the summer months.

It should be recorded that the firm concerned has always been co-operative and helpful, and has spent fairly large sums of money to abate and prevent nuisances. I must also record again my view that whatever plant is put in, the very close proximity of houses is bound to lead to complaint from time to time because of the nature of the materials processed. The ultimate test will be if the odours can be kept to acceptable levels of duration and intensity. I have discussed this and similar problems with the District Alkali Inspector, and he holds a similar view.

The feather processing factory at Fishtoft has given far less trouble since it restricted its process to feathers only and excluded chicken offal. When nuisance has occurred it has usually been traced to plant breakdown, especially to intake pumps for cooling water. Here again a close liaison is kept with the firm, and conditions kept under constant watch and review.

RODENT CONTROL.

The rodent control service gives free treatment for rat and mice infestations at domestic premises and treatments at business premises on a chargeable basis. During 1972 the work continued to be carried out by the Cleansing Foreman on a part-time basis, and he has carried out treatments on request. As usual, where a difficult problem has arisen his work has been supplemented and backed by the public health inspectors, mainly so far as rat-proofing or clearing up of accumulations of rubbish etc., was concerned.

The public cleansing duties of the foreman have become more and more important and time consuming, and next year this will be even more so when further incentive bonus schemes for the employees are introduced. Additional supervisory work will be entailed at his level and he will be able to devote even less time to rodent control treatments and surveys. At that time I would consider it essential to discontinue the use of a part-time operator, and to employ one or more full-time operators completely divorced from other duties. Re-organisation of Local Government will by then be well advanced and it will, of course, be prudent to delay any major changes so that they fit in with the future policy of the new Council of the merging authorities.

INSECT PEST CONTROL.

Control work and advice to the public has continued to be carried out and given by the Council's Rodent and Pest Operator and the public health inspectors. No unusual problems in this field have arisen.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1972 for the Rural District of Boston in the County of Holland (Lincs.).

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—**Inspections** for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	6	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	81	30	2	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	87	30	2	Nil

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
(a) Insufficient	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	1	nil	nil	nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	nil	nil	1	nil	nil
Total	4	1	1	nil	nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

Outwork.

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)

NIL OUTWORKERS.

**SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS CARRIED OUT
BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS, ADDITIONAL TO
THOSE MENTIONED ELSEWHERE IN THIS REPORT.**

Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	357
Improvement Grants	..	..	..	..	..	..	653
Caravan Sites	..	..	..	..	..	..	96
Piggeries	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	..	375
Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	70
Dyke Pollution and Overflowing Cesspools	..	..	..	..	..	..	99
Insect Pests	..	..	..	..	..	..	76
Control of Refuse Tips	..	..	..	..	..	..	175
Public Cleansing Services	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	237
Ice-Cream Sampling	..	..	..	..	..	..	48
Meat Inspection	..	..	..	..	..	..	520
Civic Amenities	..	..	..	..	..	..	51
Clean Air Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Pail Conversions	..	..	..	..	..	..	99
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	43

GUARDIAN PRESS
(BOSTON) LTD.
NELSON WAY
BOSTON - LINCS.
